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BULLETIN

of the

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARIES

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No. 1. November 1956

This is the first issue of the official organ of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries; it is planned to bring out three numbers each year at about the middle of each academic term, i.e. roughly, in February, May, and November. It will be sent free to all members of the Association, and non-members will be able to subscribe to it.

The association came formally into being at a meeting held on October 25th, 1956, in the Senate House of the University of London. The morning was devoted to the formal business of adopting a constitution and of electing officers; in the afternoon there was an opportunity to visit a variety of libraries in the area; and finally, tea was taken at Dr. Williams's Library.

A list of those attending the morning meeting appears on another page; many more would have attended if they could, and it became immediately evident that the new body would start with a membership of an encouraging size.

Dr. Thomas briefly surveyed the origins of the Association and his account appears elsewhere in this issue. All the preliminary steps had been undertaken by members of the Standing Conference of Theological and Philosophical Libraries in London (SCOTAPLL), and a provisional committee had been formed which was as representative as it could be made in the time. The meeting agreed that this committee should remain in office until the end of 1957, thus saving the necessity and expense of holding immediate elections. Officers were elected, and a list of the committee in its present shape appears on the inside of the front cover.

The meeting then turned to consideration of what the Association should do, and what the Bulletin should contain. There are in the Association, on the one hand, professional librarians who are familiar with techniques and with organised services and resources; they are keen to place their knowledge at the service of all the other members, and they desire to help to bring to light bibliographical resources which lie hidden (and possibly unsuspected) in the many libraries which are not administered by professional librarians. On the other hand there are those who have under their control collections of books, including treasures, and need only the professional

know-how in order to organise these collections and to make their contents known. It will be one of the main purposes of the Association to bring to light these hidden resources, and in this way to help the general field of scholarship. It will be a principal function of this Bulletin to help these activities in every possible way.

During 1957 it is hoped to include special accounts of The National Central Library and the national inter-library lending services; of particular local schemes which are of interest to members of the Association, such as the Metropolitan Special Collections Scheme; of the British National Book Centre, which is the main channel through which exchanges of surplus material are made; of SCOTAPLL, which preceded the new Association by some years, and which produced an interesting scheme of special study tickets for use in any of the member libraries. It will be a feature of all such accounts that they they shall be adequately documented, so that those interested can read further if they wish.

Another feature which will surely become permanent will include accounts of specific libraries and collections of books. In the end, no doubt, it will be necessary to 'commission' such accounts, but I should like at this point to issue an invitation to every member of the Association to let me have an account of his library, for inclusion as and when circumstances allow. Such accounts should be long enough to be useful, and should include information about special features, collections, treasures, and services; they should also include appeals for help and information so that others who can, can offer assistance. Information about official publications, e.g. lists of additions, special lists, should most certainly be included, and references given to published accounts of the libraries. My invitation includes also notes about any publications which members consider of interest.

Another type of content will be notes about useful publications; those by or about relevant libraries will certainly be included, and also 'professional' library publications which look as if they might be useful. Whether we shall ever be able to find room for reviews cannot yet be foreseen, nor is it possible to say whether there will be any place for a correspondence column. We can but learn as we go and adjust ourselves to the needs of the Association as they manifest themselves. All suggestions for improving the Bulletin will be welcomed.

The International Association of Theological Libraries

The International Association owes its formation to the meetings of IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations) at Brussels in September 1955. The proposal was the outcome of a meeting convened by the World Council of Churches Study Department at Unesco House in Paris the previous year, when a desire was shown for fuller information about theological libraries and theological literature throughout the world. An account of the earlier stages and what its sponsors had in mind will be found in Libri vol. 6, no. 1, (1955) pp. 65-75.

The formation of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries has been one of the first fruits of the Association, for while the International Association had in America the support of ATLA (American Theological Library Association), in England it had the support of the London group known as SCOTAPLL (Standing Conference of the Theological and Philosophical Libraries of London) and it was felt that a wider association was needed and would be valuable in its own right.

Two people were named at the Brussels meeting of IFLA to look after the beginnings of the International Association, Rev. R. Thomas, Librarian, Dr. Williams's Library and Dr. Stillson Judah, Librarian, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. Subsequently they were joined by Father Philip Caraman, Librarian of the Farm Street Library, London, and Dr. Hans Harms, Associate Director of the Division of Studies of the World Council of Churches.

Progress, being dependent upon postal communications, has necessarily been slow. But plans were drawn up by Dr. Stillson Judah for the publication of a Bulletin giving information of all more important contemporary theological publications. It was found, however, that the work of organising the collection and publication of such up-to-date information from many parts of the globe would be very costly. A figure of £8,000 a year over a number of years has been mentioned, and clearly without very munificent support no such project could be undertaken or long continued.

There has followed a second project, which promises to be much less expensive, the publication of a periodical containing full bibliographies of theologians and philosophers (recent and not so recent), of important controversies and of theological developments at various times. We might call it An International Bibliography of Books in Religion. Each

number of the periodical could contain two or more longer bibliographies, and, in addition, several shorter ones devoted to men with few publications to their name. There could also be notes and news of other bibliographical work in the theological field. Well indexed at suitable intervals such a series would be highly prized in the library world. The right editor could plan publication well in advance and command the services of experts in many circumscribed fields in different countries. Apart from the cost of printing and an adequate allowance for clerical assistance and for contributions the expense would be on a small scale, while the demand might well be such that after a time it would make the amount of any subsidy needed quite small.

It can be claimed that apart from the intrinsic interest of such a project it would have other beneficial results. It would bring into contact scholars and librarians in many countries; through them information could be compiled of the library resources of their countries, and in time their co-operation might lead to the formation of associations of theological libraries in countries where none exist at present, and eventually there might be the wide support that would be needed if the larger project of a Bulletin of Current Theological Literature is ever to be realised.

R.T.

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Dr. Williams's Library: A Bibliography of Early Nonconformity.

An entire recataloguing of all the works in the Library published before the year 1800 that bear on Protestant Dissent (including a very large collection of pamphlets) has been undertaken with the support of the Pilgrim Trust and Hibbert Trust. This has now been completed. Although it is unlikely that any one library contains all, or anything approaching all, the literature of English Dissent, the present catalogue, despite its inevitable gaps, approximates to a bibliography of the subject and affords a useful guide to the literature of these centuries of English religious history.

The completion of the work has taken nine years. Throughout it has been in the hands of Miss G. Woodward, who has had the co-operation of the Library staff and the occasional advice of historians on points of difficulty.

The catalogue has a threefold arrangement: (1) by author with full cross-references and numerous identifications of anonymous writers; (2) by date; and (3) by subject. The eighteenth century section of the work has been produced in such a form that, given the wherewithal of labour and material, the basic entries can be readily reproduced or a working check-list run off at will.

Libraries represented at the inaugural meeting of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries in the Library of the University of London, October 25th, 1956.

Aslib	J. Bird
Baptist College, Bristol	Rev. N.S. Moon
British & Foreign Bible Society	Miss D. Dance
Christian Science Committee on Publications	J.R.C. Kenyon
Church Missionary Society	Miss J. Ferrier (Hon.Secretary) & Miss D.S. Pratt
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs	Rev. Philip Eastman
Deptford Public Library	H.J. Rengert & R. Stone
Dr. Williams's Library	Rev. Roger Thomas (Chairman) & Miss I.R. Elliott
Fulham Public Library	J.F. Hasker
Hammersmith Central Library	K.G. Hunt
Hampstead Public Library	S.B. Saunders
Heythrop College, Chipping Norton	Rev. Francis Courtney
Jews' College Library	Miss R. Lehmann
Kelham, Newark	Brother George Every
King's College	R. Hutton
Maha Bodhi Society of India	Mrs. A. Bennett
National Central Library	S.P.L. Filon
School of Oriental & African Studies	J.D. Pearson & R.J. Hoy
Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham	Mrs. J.M. Leonard
Sion College	Miss E. Edmondston
University of London Library	J. Pafford & Miss J.M. Lansdown
Westminster Central Reference Library	R.L. Collison & M.L. Henry

Unesco Bulletin for Libraries is a monthly publication which contains a mass of information of interest to librarians, including notes of new publications which might otherwise go unreported. Lists of works available for disposal are included as well as lists of 'wants'. New cataloguing and bibliographical projects are regularly reported. Enquiries about rates of subscription should be addressed to Unesco, 19, Avenue Kléber, Paris, XVIe, France. It is understood that a limited stock of back issues has been deposited with the Rev. Philip Eastman, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, 59 Bryanston Street, London, W.1, for distribution among members of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries; enquiries should be addressed directly to Mr. Eastman.

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The Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, W.C.1, issues two monthly lists. One is a list of additions to the library, arranged in an order suited to work of the teaching department. Thus works on the philosophies or religions of particular areas appear under those areas, but works which are general or comparative appear in the "general" section at the end.

The other is a list of periodical articles in Western languages dealing with the Far East and South East Asia (including the Pacific Islands); this includes a heading 'Religion and Philosophy'. An annual cumulation is made, and two have so far appeared, covering the periods May 1954 - April 1955, and May 1955 - April 1956 respectively.

The monthly lists are issued free; the cumulations cost 5/- each and the stock of the earlier one is on the point of exhaustion. Enquiries should be addressed to The Librarian at the above address.

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The University of London Library, Senate House, W.C.1, issues printed lists of additions at 2-monthly intervals. Originally a selected list of additions was issued once a year but this newer method has been adopted for various reasons. The whole field is divided into sections as follows:-

I. Language and Literature. II. History
III. Psychology, Education, Geography, Anthropology, Archaeology, Social Sciences, Law.
IV. Philosophy & Religion V. Fine Arts & Music.
VI. General works, Palaeography, Bibliography, Librarianship.

Enquiries about these lists should be addressed to The Goldsmiths' Librarian at the above address.

CONSTITUTION

(Approved October, 1956)

1. Title and Aim.

The Association shall be known as the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries. Its aim shall be to promote the interests of libraries, scholars, and librarians, in these fields.

2. Membership.

Full membership shall be open to institutions and individuals within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland upon payment of the appropriate subscription, which shall be one guinea per annum for institutions, and one half guinea per annum for individuals. Subscriptions shall fall due on January 1st each year.

Corresponding membership shall be open to institutions and individuals in other parts of the Commonwealth.

3. Officers and Committee.

a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of i) Chairman, ii) Deputy-Chairman, iii) Hon.Secretary, iv) Hon. Treasurer, v) seven other members. All members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually by postal ballot and shall assume office on January first following election; they shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. They shall have power to co-opt, and vacancies arising among elected members of the Committee during the course of a year shall be filled by co-option, except that any such vacancies arising during the last quarter of a year need not be filled.

The offices of Hon.Secretary and Hon.Treasurer may be combined if the Committee so decide.

b) The quorum shall be five members, of whom one must be an officer.

c) The Committee shall present an annual report and audited accounts on the work of the Association to members.

4. General Meetings.

An Annual General Meeting shall be held on a date to be determined by the Executive Committee. A special General Meeting a) may be called on the instruction of the Executive Committee; b) shall be called within 28 days of the receipt by the Hon. Secretary of a requisition signed by not less than 5 members of the Association, whose membership must be current and fully-paid-up. Not less than 14 days' written notice of such a meeting shall be sent to every member of the Association, stating the business for which the meeting has been called.

5. Alteration and Interpretation of Rules.

The Rules of the Association shall not be altered or rescinded except with the consent of at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at either the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting convened under Rule 4. Not less than 14 days' written notice shall be sent to every member of the Association of any meeting convened for the consideration of any proposed alteration of Rules, and the notice convening the meeting shall set forth the terms of the proposed alteration.

The Executive Committee shall decide on all points on which these Rules are silent.

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It will be noted from the Constitution that subscriptions fall due on January 1st each year. Since the Association cannot function without money the committee appeal to everyone to send their subscriptions to the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer without delay. Promptness of payment will not only enable the Association to get off to a flying start, but it will save time, effort, and money, in having to round up laggards.